

Amended Claims

Claims 1.-19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Newly added) A secure cage for the protection of a plurality of fiber optic cables belonging to a singular customer and for use for signal transmission in the telecommunications field, said secure cage providing protection of such cables in a manhole structure, comprising:

- a pair of side panels, each having a defined width and thickness;
- at least two front panels foldably attached to one another and each hingedly attached to one of the side panels with each having a defined thickness;

- at least one attachment device attached to each side panel opposite its connection to the front panel for attachment to the manhole structure, said attachment device comprising one of a hasp and angle;

- at least one pivotal latch attached to the front panels adjacent their foldable attachment to one another wherein the pivotal latch may be latched when the front panels are pivoted into place to form substantially a single plane, and the pivotal latch, when locked, provides retention of the two panels in alignment in substantially a single plane; and

- wherein the side panels and the front panels are adapted to collapse to form a substantially flat structure having a thickness substantially equal to the sum of the thicknesses of each of the side panels and front panels and the outer dimension substantially equal to the largest of the front and side panels to facilitate insertion of the secure cage into and from the manhole structure.

Claim 21. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 20 wherein the front and side panels are hingedly attached together by piano hinges.

Claim 22. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 20 wherein the front and side panels are hingedly attached together by a flexible member.

Claim 23. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 20 wherein at least one of the front panels and side panels incorporates perforations for providing ventilation to the fiber optic cables located therein.

Claim 24. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 20 wherein the panels of the secure cage are formed of a lightweight material.

Claim 25. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 24 wherein the panels are formed of a metal.

Claim 26. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 25 wherein the panels are formed of aluminum.

Claim 27. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 25 wherein the panels are formed of a rigid polymer.

Claim 28. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 25 wherein each secure cage has a dimension of approximately four feet wide, one to two feet deep, and approximately five feet in height.

Claim 29. (Newly added) The secure cage of claim 25 wherein the side panels are locked to the manhole structure and the front panels are locked to each other, and said locks capable of being removed to provide access into the secure cage during servicing of the cables, or to provide for collapse of the secure cage when it is installed and erected, or removed, from the manhole structure.